



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 06 September 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports that an estimated 60,000 people in Westchester County entered their fourth day with no electricity on Tuesday. (See item [3](#))
- President Bush on Tuesday released his updated National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, which outlines the U.S. government strategy to protect and defend American interests at home and abroad from terrorism. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 05, Associated Press* — **Nebraska nuclear plants expanding storage for used fuel.** As they wait for a national storage site to be built, Nebraska's two nuclear power plants are expanding their on-site storage systems for used fuel. Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) is spending \$45 million and the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) \$23 million on the first phase of expanded storage systems for the high-level radioactive waste, the utilities said. Other nuclear plants are expanding their storage systems because they are running out of room in what were originally to be transitional storage systems. The federal government hopes to build a single national storage site in Nevada at Yucca Mountain, but it may not begin taking fuel until 2017. The OPPD and NPPD plants' original storage facilities are deep pools of water

that shield people from radiation but require heavy maintenance. These pools are considered at greater risk of catastrophe than the long-term storage systems, in which fuel bundles are encased in steel barrels surrounded by concrete.

Source: <http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2006/09/04/news/nebraska/d49f5f5ce09fd75b862571df0011b062.txt>

2. *September 05, Associated Press* — **Successful test well in Gulf of Mexico means U.S. oil reserves could grow 50 percent.** Results from a deep-water test well in the Gulf of Mexico suggest a new pool of oil and gas that could boost U.S. reserves by as much as 50 percent. Chevron on Tuesday, September 5, estimated the 300-square-mile region where its test well sits could hold between three billion and 15 billion barrels of oil and natural gas liquids. Analysts are calling it the most significant domestic discovery since Alaska's Prudhoe Bay more than a generation ago. It will take many years and tens of billions of dollars to bring the oil to market, but the discovery carries particular importance for the entire industry at a time when Western oil and gas companies are finding fewer opportunities in politically unstable parts of the world, including the Middle East, Africa, and Russia. Chevron's well, called "Jack 2," was drilled about 5.3 miles below sea level in the Walker Ridge area of the Gulf, about 270 miles southwest of New Orleans and 175 miles off the coast.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060905/major_oil_discovery.html?.v=15
3. *September 05, Associated Press* — **Thousands in New York without electricity.** Tens of thousands of people entered their fourth day with no electricity Tuesday, September 5, as Consolidated Edison workers again labored to combat the effects of the summer's weather. About 15,000 Con Edison customers, or an estimated 60,000 people, remained without power in Westchester County late Tuesday morning, spokesperson Chris Olert said. The utility expected to have most power restored by Wednesday. "The storm hit us harder than we expected. But right now we're going block by block and house by house to restore all of our customers in Westchester County," said another Con Edison spokesperson, Alfonso Quiroz. Con Ed said the current outages were purely weather-related, unlike those in Queens during the July blackout, which have been blamed on equipment failures. About 660,000 people in Long Island, Westchester, and New York City lost power at some point Saturday as the remnants of Tropical Storm Ernesto lashed the region, according to the Long Island Power Authority and Con Ed.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060905/ernesto_new_york.html?.v=1
4. *September 01, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **Nuclear Regulatory Commission issues mid-cycle assessments for all U.S. nuclear plants.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued mid-cycle assessment letters for 103 operating nuclear power plants and posted them to its Website. The letters show that U.S. commercial nuclear power plants continue to operate safely. Every six months each plant receives either a mid-cycle review letter or an annual assessment letter and an NRC inspection plan. Updated information on plant performance is posted to the NRC Website every quarter. The next annual assessment letters will be issued in March 2007.
Assessment letters: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/listofasmrpt.html>
Source: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-1_05.html

5.

August 30, North American Electric Reliability Council — **North American Electric Reliability Council releases dashboard of reliability information.** The North American Electric Reliability Council's newly released Dashboard of Reliability Information includes several sections that cover standards and compliance; a disturbances map that provides users with basic information regarding all reported North American energy incidents and disturbances for the current year; performance and operations information; and an alert/watch list that displays significant and immediate concerns within the electric power industry.
Dashboard: <http://www.nerc.net/dashboard/>
Source: <http://www.nerc.com/>

6. *August 30, U.S. Department of Energy* — **DOE announces creation of new Office of Health, Safety, and Security.** The Department of Energy (DOE) on Wednesday, August 30, announced the creation of a new office to strengthen and improve the health, safety, and security of the DOE workers, facilities, and the public. The Office of Health, Safety, and Security (HSS) will help formulate and implement health, safety, and security policy for the Department, provide assistance to DOE sites, conduct oversight through rigorous field inspections, and carry out enforcement activities previously carried out by the Offices of Environment, Safety and Health and Security and Safety Performance Assurance. Through an integrated policy and oversight approach in the new HSS office, policy and field assistance personnel will work more closely with site managers to identify potential weaknesses and develop corrective actions to prevent workplace accidents before they happen.
Office of Health, Safety, and Security: <http://www.hss.energy.gov>.
Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/4122.htm>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

7. *September 05, WDRB Fox 41 (KY)* — **Chemical leak prompts shut down of Kentucky neighborhood.** Louisville, KY, firefighters spent Labor day afternoon cleaning up a phosphine leak at the Caudill Seed Company. Investigators say workers were dipping strips in phosphine, when they caught on fire inside a 55-gallon drum. Although portions of the Portland Neighborhood were shutdown for several hours, investigators say there were no evacuations because of the spill.
Source: <http://www.fox41.com/article/view/7612/?tf=wdrbarticleview.t pl>
8. *September 03, ABC News 4 (SC)* — **Chemical plant fire prompts shelter-in-place advisory in South Carolina.** Technicians are investigating what could have caused an early morning plant fire at the Rhodia Inc. specialty chemical plant in downtown Charleston, SC. Technicians declared an emergency and advised residents to shelter-in-place after a fire began in a general processing until 1 a.m. EDT Saturday, September 2.
Source: <http://www.abcnews4.com/news/stories/0906/358036.html>
9. *September 01, North Jersey (NJ)* — **Three treated for inhaling toxic fumes near New Jersey chemical plant.** Three people were briefly overcome by hydrochloric acid vapors allegedly leaking from the Grant Chemical plant in Elmwood Park, NJ, Thursday morning, August 31.

None of the three were employees of Grant Chemical, but were working nearby. None of the victims required hospitalization. Grant Chemical employees had to leave the premises, and borough police set up a perimeter around the plant.

Source: <http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkzNTcmZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTY5ODU0NjQmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkz>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *September 04, Websense Security Labs* — **Multiple Phishing Alert: Virtual Money, University of South California Federal Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that targets customers of Virtual Money. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message claiming that during routine checks on SSL transactions, different suspicious login attempts were detected, and access to the account has been restricted. The e-mail provides a link to a phishing site that attempts to collect the user's account information. Another reported phishing attack targets customers of the University of South California Federal Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message claiming that in order to fight against terrorism and money laundering, account information must be verified. The e-mail provides a link to a phishing site that attempts to collect the user's account information.

Screenshots: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=602>

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=603>

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/>

11. *September 04, New York Times* — **Some ID theft is not for profit, but to get a job.** Though most people think of identity theft as a financial crime, one of the most common forms involves illegal immigrants using fraudulent Social Security numbers to conduct their daily lives. With tacit acceptance from some employers and poor coordination among government agencies, this practice provides the backbone of some low-wage businesses and a boon to the Social Security trust fund. In the 1990's, mismatches accounted for \$20 billion in Social Security taxes paid. "It's clear that it is a different intent than trying to get someone's MasterCard and charge it up, knowing they're going to get the bill," said Richard Hamp, a Utah assistant attorney general. The Federal Trade Commission, which estimates that 10 million Americans have their identities stolen annually, does not distinguish between people who steal Social Security numbers so they can work and those who intend to steal money.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/04/us/04theft.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&ref=washington&pagewanted=print

12. *September 04, Computeractive (UK)* — **Cyber criminals use do-it-yourself phishing nets.** The number of phishing attacks and phishing Websites has surged to an all-time high due to

the growing problem of 'crimeware' kits being sold online. According to an Anti Phishing Working Group (APWG) report released Monday, September 4, entitled Project: Crimeware, the kits allow non-technical criminals to start up their own online criminal empires. This do-it-yourself approach has helped fuel the rise in phishing attacks over the past year, said the APWG. "The kits allow non-technical criminals to infect Websites with malicious exploit code with the intent of running it upon users visiting a Website," said Dan Hubbard of Websense, which conducted the research for the APWG. "We have seen the most password-stealing malicious-code URLs tracked to date. We attribute this to the advancement of monetary gain that is being made by utilizing crimeware applications and Websites. This is also attributed to the increased use of exploit kits being sold and bought on the internet," Hubbard continued. APWG's news comes days after Messagelabs, in its August 2006 global malware report, warned that phishing attacks are increasingly aping customer or victim relationship management techniques of legitimate businesses.

APWG report: http://www.antiphishing.org/reports/apwg_report_june_2006.pdf

Messagelabs report: http://www.messagelabs.com/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_437_417_-417_43/http%3B/0120-0176-CTC1%3B8080/publishedcontent/publish/dotcom_libraries_en/files/monthly_reports/messagelabs_intelligence_report_august_2006_5.pdf

Source: <http://www.computeractive.co.uk/computeractive/news/2163526/cyber-criminals-diy-methods-con>

13. *September 04, Sophos* — **New twist as spammers offer to help companies cheat the stock market.** SophosLabs has identified a new tactic being used by spammers involved in lucrative "pump-and-dump" stock spam campaigns. These criminals are now targeting companies offering to boost their stock prices in return for payment. Pump-and-dump scams are e-mail campaigns which encourage people to invest in a particular company's stock, in order to quickly inflate its value and enable the spammers to make a fast profit. It is thought that these scams take place unbeknown to the company involved. Now, in a new twist seen in an e-mail campaign, scammers are telling companies that they can boost their own stock prices by up to 250 percent within two to three weeks, and are even offering a one day free trial. The e-mails also claim that the scammers will offer advice on future share price movements to investors, for a 30 percent share of the income.

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/09/stockpromo.html>

14. *September 03, Associated Press* — **Terrorism hurts markets, but how much?** How much does terrorism affect stock prices? Economists' unsurprising general conclusion is that terror attacks hurt stock prices — but some of the details are unexpected. For instance, after September 11, 2001, the stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 rebounded to their pre-attack prices faster than every other major world index except Japan's Nikkei, according to Andrew H. Chen of Southern Methodist University and Thomas F. Siems of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. What none of the research has answered is the degree to which the fear of another terrorist attack on the U.S. has been factored into stock prices. Those who say some threat of a future attack is already baked into stock prices hasten to add that another attack in the U.S. would still send prices lower. Said Lynn Reaser of Bank of America: "We would likely see a drop in stock prices of significant proportion, but investors seem to believe there would be a subsequent recovery...As an important footnote, the scope and the magnitude and the form of a terrorist attack would determine whether or not that assessment is correct."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/03/AR2006090301012.html>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

15. *September 04, Associated Press* — **Airbus jumbo jet goes on test flight.** The Airbus A380, the world's largest passenger jet, took off with a full load of passengers for the first time Monday, September 4. Carrying 474 Airbus employees, the 308-ton jet left from Toulouse, southern France, on the first of four test flights scheduled this week to try out the plane's cabin environment and systems with passengers on board. Airbus says it is on schedule to deliver the first finished A380 to Singapore Airlines Ltd. by the end of the year, despite the latest wave of costly delays that are expected to hold up subsequent deliveries by about six months. With the A380, Airbus has bet heavily on future demand for very large planes to fly growing numbers of travelers among the world's increasingly congested major airports. The A380 can seat as many as 555 people in three classes, but launch customer Singapore Airlines is expected to operate the plane with a configuration similar to the 474-seat layout chosen for the test flights with passengers.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060904/ap_on_bi_ge/france_airbus

16. *September 03, Duluth News Tribune (MN)* — **Delay long for London-bound fliers.** The 255 passengers who boarded a Northwest Airlines flight bound for London from Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, Saturday, September 2 were delayed when smoke from an electrical problem in the jet's entertainment system prompted the crew to make an emergency landing in Duluth, MN. None of the passengers or the flight's crew of 10 was injured. Initially, Northwest attempted to troubleshoot the airplane on the tarmac, but delays mounted. Passengers were finally allowed to disembark after about 10 hours of being grounded on the runway in Duluth. Northwest flew the passengers back to the Twin Cities on other aircraft.

Source: <http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/local/15434395.htm>

17. *September 02, New York Times* — **Mass transit grows as commuters' trip of choice in New York.** A growing number of New Yorkers are deciding that if the trip to work takes more than a half-hour, then someone else can do the driving, a new survey by the Census Bureau shows. In the metropolitan region of New York, which for years has been home to the nation's longest average commute, tens of thousands of workers have stopped driving to their jobs and switched to riding subways, trains, buses and ferries, according to an analysis of the data released this week by demographers at Queens College. The latest figures reinforce just how unusual New York is in its reliance on public transportation. No other American city makes half as much use of mass transit. Of the 6.2 million transit riders in the country, more than 40 percent live in the metropolitan region. The average length of the trip to work for city residents was more than 39 minutes last year. Those with the longest commutes in the nation, according to the survey results, live in Coweta County, GA, where commuters spent an average of more than 51 minutes getting to work last year.

Census Bureau American Community Survey 2005:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/02/nyregion/02commute.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

18. *September 02, KGO-TV (CA)* — **Brief evacuation at Mineta Airport.** Around 100 people at Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport in San Jose, CA were evacuated for 30 minutes Saturday, September 2 after Transportation Security Administration officials noticed a suspicious article in a passenger's carry-on baggage, airport spokesman Rich Dressler said. While the device, a flashlight contraption, was not an explosive, it was suspicious enough for authorities to cite the man, Dressler said.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=local&id=4523594>
19. *September 02, Los Angeles Times* — **Plane with 29 aboard narrowly misses news chopper near LAX.** A small airliner coming in for a landing at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) early Friday, September 1 narrowly missed a helicopter that was chartered by a television news channel, officials said. An alarm sounded in the cockpit of American Eagle Flight 3034 from Santa Barbara, warning the pilot that he was too close to the helicopter and prompting him to abruptly pull up, said Dave Jackson, a spokesman for American Eagle. Twenty-six passengers and three crew members were on board. The Saab turboprop came within 100 feet vertically of the helicopter and about a quarter of a mile horizontally, said Ian Gregor, a spokesman with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA and American Eagle said they would investigate the incident. This was the first near collision in the LAX area since January 12, 2004, FAA records show.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-ne-armiss2sep02.1.2425253.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california>
20. *September 01, Columbus Dispatch (OH)* — **Ohio's Norfolk Southern transportation hub to be complete by end of 2007.** In Ohio, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority has named a builder of the Norfolk Southern transportation terminal at Rickenbacker Airport, a big step in opening central Ohio to increased distribution traffic. The terminal is expected to become a hub for rail cars arriving from the East Coast, where their goods can be distributed by truck, air or again by rail. The project will be "a major piece of infrastructure to help move goods and freight in and out of the Rickenbacker area," Columbus Airport Authority President and Chief Executive Elaine Roberts said. The authority, Norfolk Southern and several government entities have been planning the terminal for years. The projected date of completion of the terminal is the end of 2007.
Source: <http://www.columbusdispatch.com/business-story.php?story=dispatch/2006/09/01/20060901-G1-04.html>
21. *August 11, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General* — **Report: Improvements needed in the U.S. Coast Guard's acquisition and implementation of Deepwater information technology systems.** Declining readiness of "Deepwater" assets, including aircraft and cutters of various sizes, has hindered the Coast Guard's effectiveness in accomplishing its homeland security, law enforcement, and regulatory missions. To meet the demand for improved communications, interoperability, and maritime security in today's environment, the Coast Guard has embarked on an estimated 20year, \$20 billion acquisition to modernize and strengthen its aging Deepwater fleet. The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Inspector General conducted an audit of the Coast Guard's efforts to design and implement command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems to support the Integrated Deepwater System program. As a

result of the audit, it was determined that the Coast Guard's efforts to develop its Deepwater C4ISR systems could be improved.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/OIG_06-55_Aug06.pdf

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

22. *September 05, Ohio Ag Connection* — Proposal to revoke livestock dealers' licenses. Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Fred Dailey has proposed to revoke five livestock dealers' licenses after an illegal marketing scheme resulted in sales of diseased swine to unknowing buyers in Kentucky, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. In March 2006, the five licensed livestock dealers marketed hogs that had been exposed to Mycobacterium avium, commonly known as avian tuberculosis. On August 14, Dailey notified the livestock dealers of his intent to revoke their licenses. The department began an investigation after West Virginia officials condemned swine at several processing plants in West Virginia. Ohio officials traced all 1,460 hogs, and those exhibiting signs of avian tuberculosis at slaughter were condemned and did not enter the human food chain. It is estimated that 40 percent of the hogs were positive for the disease.

Source: http://www.ohioagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=565&yr=20_06

23. *September 05, South Dakota Ag Connection* — Officials guarding against livestock disease. The South Dakota Animal Industry Board has taken a precaution that is intended to keep diseased livestock from entering the state. The board is demanding that health certificates be obtained no more than three days before hooved animals are brought into South Dakota.

Source: http://www.southdakotaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=75_2&yr=2006

24. *September 04, Korea Times* — North American antlers illegally distributed in Korea. A lawmaker has said import-banned antlers from North American elks are being distributed in South Korea as expensive Russian ones. Rep. Bahk Jae-wan of the opposition Grand National Party said antlers taken from North American elks, which have been under import ban for concerns that they might be infected with chronic wasting disease, are being sold as high-priced Russian ones after being repackaged in China, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

Source: http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/nation/200609/kt200609042042_5411990.htm

25. *August 18, Casper Star-Tribune (WY)* — Natrona County has first case of vesicular stomatitis. Discovery of a viral disease in a horse at a ranch east of Casper is prompting the Wyoming Livestock Board to give special scrutiny to horses from Natrona and Converse counties going to the Wyoming State Fair. The board reported Thursday, August 17, that the first case in the nation in 2006 of vesicular stomatitis was been confirmed in a 10-year-old

quarter horse mare near the Natrona–Converse county line. Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease characterized by blister–like lesions on the mouths and tongues of horses, cattle and other livestock. It's transmitted by insects, so outbreaks typically subside in the winter. The disease is rarely fatal, but it can cause painful sores, and animals might refuse food and water, causing weight loss. In Wyoming last year, horses and cattle on 141 farms in 15 counties were infected with the disease. Before that, Wyoming hadn't had a case of vesicular stomatitis in nearly a decade.

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2006/08/18/news/casper/6a5cd128ec1aeb91872571ce000030d2.txt>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

26. *September 05, Reuters* — China to provide potable water for rural residents. China will invest billions of dollars over the next 10 years to provide drinking water for 300 million rural residents who face shortages or are without access to clean water, local media reported on Tuesday, September 5. Increasing industrial waste and sewage discharge, as well as heavy use of pesticides and fertilizer, has resulted in drinking water being contaminated in many parts of the countryside. Factories have also ignored pollution hazards and dumped toxic industrial waste into rivers and lakes in China, home to one–fifth of the world's population but only seven percent of its water resources. In southwest China, problems have been compounded by the region's worst drought in more than a century, which left more than 18 million people short of drinking water. China has also said it will spend \$125 billion on urban water supplies, where the quality has worsened due to pollution and poor management.

Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2006-09-05T061204Z_01_PEK60533_RTRIDST_0_SCIENCE-CHINA-WATER-DC.XML

27. *September 04, Associated Press* — Drought in Spain could affect water supplies to up to two million people. A drought could force rationing of water supplies to up to two million people in the southeastern region of Murcia if rains don't replenish two reservoirs in central Spain, officials said Monday, September 5. Reservoirs at Entrepénas and Buendía, which are used to channel water to Mediterranean coastal province Murcia, have reached such low levels that water transfers planned for the end of September may have to be canceled, said Fernando Ortega, director of the regional water authority in Castilla–La Mancha. Unless rains begin to swell the two reservoirs, Murcia's two million residents could face rationing, Ortega said. Spain has suffered from low rainfall for several years. In 2005, reservoirs dropped to 45.3 percent of their capacity after authorities reported the driest winter and spring for more than 60 years.

Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/09/04/europe/EU_GEN_Spain_Drought.php

28. *September 03, Poughkeepsie Journal (NY)* — **Environmental Protection Agency may ease rules for water transfer.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a rule that would allow states to transfer water from one stream, lake, reservoir or other water bodies to another, without first getting a permit. Getting a permit first requires proving the transfer would do no harm to human health or the environment, or coming up with strategies to limit that harm. The EPA argues the Clean Water Act does not require states or local water agencies to obtain a federal permit to move water to irrigate fields, generate power, control floods or provide drinking water. If the EPA adopts the rule as expected this year, the agency will not be able to use the permit process to change or stop a plan that threatens public health or the environment. EPA officials say they believe Congress never intended it to have power over water transfers and it has not been their practice to require permits for water transfers, except when ordered to do so by a federal court. Requiring a federal permit would be an "unnecessary federal interference" with state water rights, the agency said in its proposed rule.
Source: <http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060903/NEWS04/609030353/1006/NEWS01>

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Public Health Sector

29. *September 05, Reuters* — **China setting down rules to share bird flu samples.** China has not provided international health agencies with samples of bird flu viruses found in the country since 2004, but is putting in place procedures to do so, a senior official said on Tuesday, September 5. Scientific analyses of bird flu samples are important because they help experts trace the evolution of viruses and the geographical spread of any particular strain. "When viral strains cross international borders, special protocols are needed and we are working to complete those," vice director of the Ministry of Agriculture's veterinary department, Li Jinxiang, told a news briefing. China has reported several cases of bird flu in humans in areas without known outbreaks among poultry, opening the question whether poultry outbreaks are going undetected or are somehow masked by vaccines.
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK46057.htm>

30. *September 05, New York Times* — **Officials slow to hear claims of 9/11 illnesses.** Five years after the World Trade Center towers collapsed, government officials have only recently begun to take a role in the care of many of the 40,000 responders and recovery workers who were made sick by toxic materials at ground zero. John Howard, who was appointed by the Bush administration in February to coordinate the federal government's 9/11 health efforts, readily admits that costly delays and missed opportunities may have shattered responders' trust in the government. One of the thorniest problems, and one reason officials have given for the long delay in responding, is the difficulty of linking the dust and smoke to specific symptoms and diseases. Making a medical diagnosis for illnesses related to toxic substance exposure requires extensive and sophisticated tests. And state workers' compensation systems, designed to handle common workplace injuries like broken arms, are not well suited for determining an illness that may take months or years to emerge.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/05/nyregion/05health.html?_r=1&hp&ex=1157428800&en=6640d9fab09a571c&ei=5094&partner=homepage&oref=slogin

31. *September 04, Agence France–Presse* — **Outbreak of chikungunya virus hits Indonesian village.** Indonesian health authorities have contained an outbreak of the chikungunya virus in a village in South Sumatra after about a sixth of the population there were infected, a doctor said. Syahrul Muhammad, the head of the South Sumatra province health office said that the outbreak began at the end of May and infected more than 500 people in village of some 3,000. Chikungunya information: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/msds-ftss/msds172e.html>
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060904/hl_afp/indonesiahealthchikungunya_060904152241

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Government Sector

32. *September 05, The White House* — **National Strategy for Combating Terrorism released.** On Tuesday, September 5, President Bush released his updated National Strategy for Combating Terrorism (NSCT), which outlines the U.S. government strategy to protect and defend American interests at home and abroad from terrorism. This updated strategy builds directly from the National Security Strategy issued in March 2006 as well as the February 2003 National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, and incorporates our increased understanding of the enemy.
Fact Sheet: The President's National Strategy for Combating Terrorism:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/09/20060905.htm>
HTML version of the NSCT: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nsct/2006/index.html>
PDF version of the NSCT: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nsct/2006/nsct2006.pdf>
March 2006 National Security Strategy: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss/2006/>
February 2003 NSCT: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030214-7.html>
Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/nationalsecurity/>

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *September 05, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Activity: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: The National Hurricane Center is issuing advisories on Tropical Depression Six, located about 1030 miles east of the Lesser Antilles. The depression is moving toward the west–northwest near 13 mph, and is expected to continue on this path for the next 24 hours. The depression is expected to become a tropical storm. Central and Eastern Pacific: The National Hurricane Center is issuing advisories on Tropical Depression Kristy, located about 795 miles southwest of the southern tip of Baja, CA. The official forecast indicates gradual weakening and degeneration. Wildfire Update: Derby Fire: The south central Montana fire has burned 26 homes and is classified as the nation's No. 1 firefighting priority. About 265 homes were evacuated Sunday night, September 3.
To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>
Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat090506.shtm>

34. *September 05, Pantagraph (IL)* — **Illinois moves to ease EMT shortage.** Growing concerns about a shortage of first responders is forcing Illinois to fix problems with certifying paramedics. The Illinois Department of Public Health promised earlier this month it will create a test for certifying entry-level emergency medical technicians (EMTs) by January 2007. The promise comes after groups like the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association complained they had been locked out of the process for two years. The move to resolve the testing problems comes after a two-year period that saw emergency responders and lawmakers become increasingly concerned about the lack of direction from the state.
Source: <http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2006/09/05/news/118749.txt>
35. *September 04, Los Angeles Times* — **Regional officials take on a simulated terror attack on Los Angeles.** In a recent disaster exercise in Los Angeles, a routine fire probe rapidly spun into an international investigation, uncovering a terrorist weapons lab in Mexico and a plan to douse the nation's second-largest city with anthrax and ricin. That scenario was presented at an uncommon gathering last week: Ten of the region's leading public officials and anti-terrorism experts convened to respond to a simulated attack on Greater Los Angeles, testing their personal mettle and the region's systems for investigating and reacting to a deeply destabilizing threat. As they did, the participants displayed an openness and cooperation that has not always marked Los Angeles' response to catastrophe. There was comfort to be taken from the exercise, as the group's members showed command of the vast interagency network constructed in recent years to protect Los Angeles from attack.
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/la-me-terror4sep04.1.5914656.story?ctrack=1&cset=true>
36. *September 03, Virginian-Pilot* — **Navy fine-tunes search and rescue since Katrina.** A year ago, swarms of military helicopters buzzing above the city represented relief to stranded New Orleans residents. Yet should a Katrina-sized storm hit the country again, Navy officials now know that some elements of the rescue effort will need to change. The nation's biggest natural disaster revealed weak spots in the response: Search grids were far too large to be effective. Air traffic control was non-existent. Rescue assignments came from two sources and created overlap in some spots, gaps in others. The U.S. military has worked over the past year to improve coordination and familiarity among branches and between active duty and National Guard units. Some of the problems Katrina laid bare have been fixed. Search-and-rescue units will now rely on a search grid that's a mile square, instead of the previous 225-square mile grid. The Navy has long had a Norfolk-based amphibious assault ship on-call to respond during hurricane season. This year, the ship was stocked with pallets of water and prepackaged meals-ready-to-eat, for quick delivery in emergencies. The Coast Guard has also strengthened ties with state emergency operations centers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's regional coordination centers.
Source: <http://home.hamptonroads.com/stories/story.cfm?story=110363&ran=140330>
37. *August 30, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disaster for New Mexico.** The head of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency on Wednesday, August 30, announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the State of New Mexico to help people and communities recover from the effects of severe storms and flooding beginning on July 26 and continuing.
For further detail: <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=6925>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=29402>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

38. *September 05, IDG News Service* — **Panasonic recalls laptop batteries.** Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. (Panasonic) is recalling several thousand laptop computer battery packs because mechanical problems with the pack's latch could lead to overheating of the battery. The recall applies to around 6,000 battery packs that were shipped with its CF-W4G Let's Note W4 laptop computers in April and May of 2005, the company said Tuesday, September 5. The recall only applies to machines shipped in Japan.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/09/05/HNpanasonicrecall_1.html

39. *September 04, Security Focus* — **Microsoft Windows Media Player plugin buffer overflow vulnerability.** The Microsoft Windows Media Player plugin for non-Microsoft browsers is prone to a buffer-overflow vulnerability. The application fails to do proper boundary checks on user-supplied data before using it in a finite-sized buffer. An attacker can exploit this issue to execute arbitrary code on the victim user's computer in the context of the victim user. This may facilitate a compromise of the affected computer. This issue is exploitable only through non-Microsoft browsers that have the Media Player plugin installed. Possible browsers include Firefox .9 and later and Netscape 8; other browsers with the plugin installed may also be affected.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16644/info>
Solution: Microsoft has released security advisory MS06-006 with updates to address this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16644/solution>

40. *September 03, eWeek* — **Sandia's Red Teams: On the hunt for security holes.** The Sandia National Laboratories' Red Teams' job is to anticipate cyber-terrorism, create contingency plans that assume the worst and ultimately thwart a pending attack by plugging existing holes. Michael Skroch, leader of the Red Teams, said utilities and government agencies are increasingly at risk as they replace custom IT systems created in the 1950s and 1960s with less expensive, off-the-shelf Windows and Unix systems that, incidentally, are easier marks for hackers. The older systems were secure because they weren't well known and had limited contact with other systems. Thus, "It's clear that the threat and risk level has never been higher for cyber-security," Skroch said. The Red Teams provide independent assessments of information, communication and critical infrastructure to identify vulnerabilities, improve system design and help decision makers increase system security.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2011679.00.asp>

41. *September 03, BBC* — **"Adware" attack on privacy tool.** Software that claimed to provide increased privacy while surfing the Web has been criticized by computer experts and the blogging community. The application Browzar has been branded "adware" by many because it directs Web searches to online adverts. When a user searches using the Browzar search engine or the search box, many of the results are for sponsored links or adverts. The paid-for

sponsored links are generated by a program known as "Overture," which is used by many search engines and sites. But many of these sites keep sponsored links separate from search results. Browzar does not.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/5310114.stm>

42. *September 01, Government Computer News* — **NIST releases recommendations for securing Web services.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released for comment a draft of Guide to Secure Web Services. Special Publication 800–95 addresses security needs for networks in which automated Web services are being deployed in service-oriented architectures. Comments should be submitted by October 30.

NIST draft publication: <http://www.csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/Draft-SP800-95.pdf>

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/41854-1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 65530 (WindowsMite), 32794 (---), 113 (auth), 4672 (eMule), 25 (smtp), 139 (netbios-ssn), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 80 (www)
Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center	
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/ .	

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